

PERFIN POTPOURRI

by Jack Brandt

1. Non-rectangular Perfins. Thanks to Jan Prins, we have another example of a non-rectangular Perfin. Figure 1 shows an isosceles triangle, which is Netherlands, Scott #204. At first glance, this stamp appears to be a right angle triangle, but measurement shows the top angle is 78 degrees, with the other two being 51 degrees.

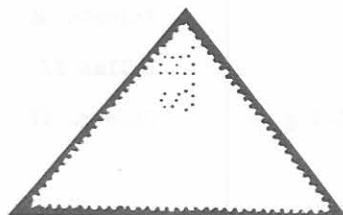


Figure 1

Are there more non-rectangles? Keep looking.

2. Australia HS. I am sure many of you have noted the Australia HS (Figure 2) Perfin with the large hole under the S. I have wondered if this was a code hole or what. However, recently I acquired an HS&Co (Figure 3), and now realized where the large hole came from, but am still not sure of the why. As can be seen, the &C were removed, but the o was left. The HS also exists without the large hole, and may have been a later modification, but the issues seem to overlap. The user of this Perfin has been reported as Howard Smith & Co. Does anyone know the reasons for the change?

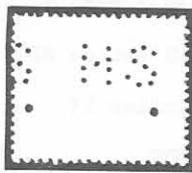


Figure 2

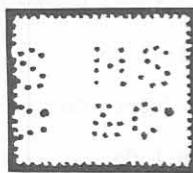


Figure 3

The study of changes in a Perfin is very interesting. Many are accidental breakage, but the removal of a letter or two usually had a meaning.

3. In recent years the Victoria Government has been using the VG Perfin illustrated in Figure 4. Prior to this, they used a machine that perforated 12 stamps at a time, each of which was slightly different. And, again prior to that machine, there was an earlier 12-head machine, again each one different. Recently I have noted on recent Australian stamps a VG as in Figure 6, which differs considerably from Figure 4. I found this was as one of the previous machine. Figure 5 shows a pair from that machine with the stamp on the right (with missing hole) as the recent ones. The recent usage has no missing hole, and Figures 6 and 7 suggest that the machine is now only punching one stamp at a time. Was there a major repair or what? The Figure 4 Perfins still appear to be in use, so was there a repair to the old machine for

another location? Help wanted.

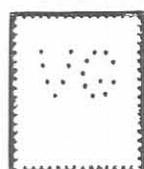


Figure 4

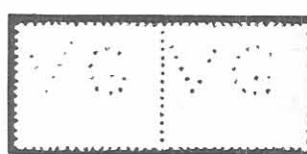


Figure 5



Figure 6

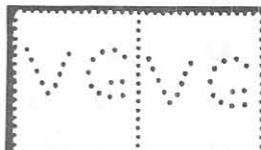


Figure 7

4. Standard Bank of South Africa. Following a Perfin user throughout the world is an interesting and challenging pursuit. Figure 8 shows the SB/SA Perfin of the Standard Bank of South Africa on a South African stamp. Figure 9 from Great Britain and Figure 10 from the United States are the farthest apparent reaches of this company. Figure 11 shows the type used on stamps of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika. It is also found on Zanzibar stamps. These two countries also used an SB Perfin, which is as the first line of the other one, and may be a machine modification. Figures 12 to 16 show Perfin types found on Great Britain revenues. Perfin identity is confirmed in all cases by cancels except for Figure 12. This one, however, appears to have been modified to make Figure 16, so it may have been a predecessor name.



Figure 8



Figure 9

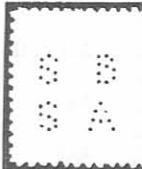


Figure 10



Figure 11

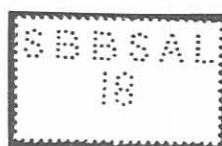


Figure 12



Figure 13

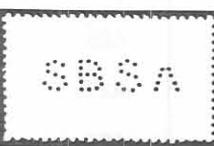


Figure 14

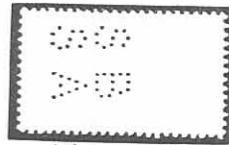


Figure 15



Figure 16

Many companies can be found on several countries' stamps, and often something about the company can be determined by studying them. (continued on page 6)

PERFIN POTPOURRI (CONTINUED)

5. Great Britain BB. Code holes are common on Perfins of many countries, but are not so common on Great Britain Perfins. Some of the early ones used differences in the &, but this was more to differentiate companies than location.

Recently I acquired a couple of GB BB's which I am wondering about as to code hole. Figure 17 is a McKee-Tomkins B45, with a hole in the bottom loop of the B. Figure 18 does not have this hole. At first one would think this pin had been broken, but there are enough other minor differences to indicate this was a different machine. Also, what is the hole doing there in the first place? The catalog indicates the user as Baddeley Bros. of London. Possibly again this was to differentiate companies, and is not really a code hole. Who knows?



Figure 17



Figure 18

6. Spain BEC. Figures 19 and 20 show two types of BEC from Spain. One C is a flat top, and the other one is pointed. These both appear to have been used over the same period. They may have been used by the Banco Espanol de Credito.

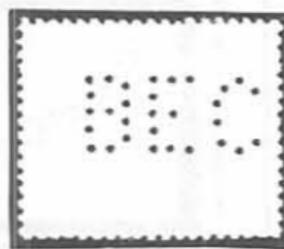


Figure 19



Figure 20

The questions that come to mind are - are both these on one machine or two? I suspect two. And if two, are they located in different locations and where? Checking cancels, I note mainly Madrid on both types. Also, if two machines, why? Also needed is confirmation of user for both types. Who can answer these questions?